

McGuire Airtides



Vol. 56, No. 39

McGuire AFB, NJ

Sept. 30, 2005

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McGuire officer takes title in AF marathon

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Weekend Weather

Saturday

Mostly sunny
High: 75° Low: 57°



Sunday

Mostly sunny
High: 71° Low: 55°



Giving hope to Katrina evacuees



Courtesy photo

Staff Sgt. Kerry Patton, an Air Mobility Command Phoenix Raven assigned to the 421st Combat Training Squadron here, holds a child evacuee from the Louis Armstrong-New Orleans International Airport, La., during an evacuation mission. Sergeant Patton is an instructor for the Phoenix Raven program at the Air Mobility Warfare Center and was one of five local Ravens who deployed to the area. For more on the Raven support of Hurricane Katrina, see page 11.

Final Salute

General Jackson bids farewell to Team McGuire

Leigh and I wish to offer our thanks to Team McGuire as we hand the reigns of command to Col. Rick and Barb Martin. Rick and Barb are the right leaders ... at the right time. They will deftly lead you in the next chapter of the Can Do Wing's consummate history.

The past 27 months have been a dream come true ... we are honored to serve with the finest Airmen in our career.

I am constantly amazed at the tremendous professionalism and dispatch of duties as you supported a myriad of missions from Hurricane Katrina and Rita Operations, Tsunami relief ops, Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, to Presidential Support.

When our Nation called, you made the impossible possible.

You are making history everyday — you are making a difference!

We are especially privileged

to live in the most patriotic military family community in the Air Force.

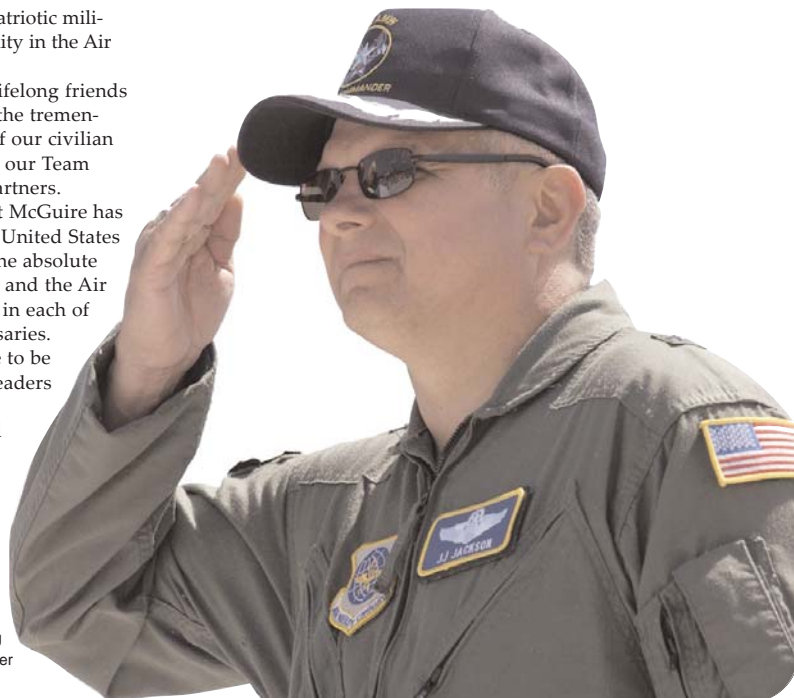
We made some lifelong friends and saw first hand the tremendous camaraderie of our civilian host leadership and our Team McGuire mission partners.

My experience at McGuire has taught me why our United States Air Force remains the absolute envy of our allies ... and the Air Force that puts fear in each of our potential adversaries.

We will continue to be your biggest cheerleaders as we watch your efforts in the Global War on Terrorism from afar. Thanks for the ride. Job WELL DONE!

— Brig. Gen.
JJ Jackson

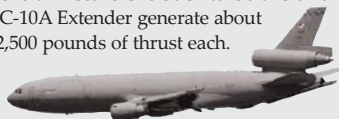
305th Air Mobility Wing
commander



Did you know?

The first flights of an American-made, jet-powered aircraft took place Oct. 1 and 2, 1942, when a XP-59A flew over the Muroc Dry Lake, Calif. The XP-59A was powered by two General Electric I-A turbojets of 1,400 pound thrust each. By contrast, the Three

General Electric CF6-50C2 turbofans on a KC-10A Extender generate about 52,500 pounds of thrust each.



Action Line

The Action Line is an integral part of the base feed-back network.

Use the chain of command first to address your concerns. If you are not satisfied with the response or you are unable to resolve the problem or concern, call the Action Line at 754-3247 or send an e-mail to action.line@mcguire.af.mil. Leave your name and number in case more information from you is needed to address your concern.

Airtides

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Will you be prepared if disaster strikes?

By Maj. Dani Johnson

4th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

NEW ORLEANS — I thought I was ready to deploy, but I didn't realize how unprepared I really was until I received orders to move within 24 hours. I had to ask myself the question: How prepared am I to face unexpected contingencies or disasters?

I received the notice the morning of Sept. 3 to deploy the next day to Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., for Joint Task Force-Katrina. My mind scrambled as I thought about what I needed: orders, plane tickets, gear. My staff had to be recalled so I could go over the next month's events since I didn't know how long I would be gone. Professionally, I was ready and prepared.

Personally, I wasn't quite as ready. As I did five loads of laundry, my mind went over what I would need. I had the recommended packing list but that had primarily only professional gear listed. I thought I had everything until I got here, unrolled my sleeping bag and realized I didn't bring a pillow. Living in bare-base conditions, there were small things I could have brought to enhance my quality of life. But because I wasn't prepared, I forgot them.

While I was packing and calling my parents, I had to find someone to watch my cats. Military families with children have to have a short-term

"Many of us don't want to deal with the reality that a disaster could happen to us. Unfortunately, it has been proven time and time again that something will happen."

Maj. Dani Johnson

4th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

care program. Those of us with pets aren't required to have one. I realized that I needed to have a plan for these exact times. Thank goodness for the kindness of neighbors.

After I re-deploy, you can bet that I will have a personal short-notice deployment kit at home with a to-do list with what needs to be done before I depart.

Shortly after I arrived, I escorted national media on a helicopter flight over the city. As I looked down at the water surrounding houses, I asked myself: Would I be ready to evacuate my

home if I needed to? What would I take with me?

Many of us don't want to deal with the reality that a disaster could happen to us. Unfortunately, it has been proven time and time again that something will happen. Once I'm home, I will also create a list of what I would take with me if I had to evacuate my home.

The other part of being prepared is ensuring you can replace your belongings if needed. I'm not advocating one insurance company over the other, but it's important, whether you are renting or owning, that you have insurance to cover any losses.

Along with having insurance is having the right insurance. According to a news report, many residents here admitted to complacency with hurricane warnings and evacuations. A Post-Kaiser-Harvard poll stated seven people out of 10 had no insurance (renters' or homeowners') to cover losses. Only 40 percent of homeowners had flood insurance. Now that might be surprising to many, but if you aren't prepared and have become complacent, you don't always do what really needs to be done. It's the "won't happen to me" syndrome.

As my deployment here winds down, I realize while I was ready to help, I wasn't as prepared as I thought I was. I can guarantee you I will be next time. Will you?

Lieutenant speaks on need for interpersonal communication

1st Lt. Gina Sortor

305th Contracting Squadron

A lot of people go to work every day and put in the standard eight to 10 hours. While at work, we are reminded of meetings, issues to be resolved, deployments and deadlines. We also think of ways to improve our work environment — getting new furniture, better benefits or increased manning. For some, this is enough for a day's work, but there may be an important key missing that will help things run smoother.

Nowadays, technical ability alone isn't enough to ensure a team's success. Technical proficiency and efficiency is a goal of any organization. However, good communication and interpersonal skills can be the asphalt on a bumpy road.

In the military, we are fortunate to work with such a diverse group

of people, striving for a common work goal. Sometimes we can get too focused on the job and lose sight of who and what gets us there: each other. We can go through the workday without saying a word to the person next to us, but team building, networking, and alliances are critical. It is crucial not only to the organization, but to ourselves mentally, emotionally and spiritually. At work, get to know your co-workers, or get out from behind the desk to personally meet your phone contacts. While you may not always agree with their stance, it is important to consider all perspectives of a particular issue. When clarifying what someone is saying, consider using their words in kind. For example, you'll notice people may use "I think, I feel or I believe." Speaking in kind and using their own terminology, lets them know they are being truly understood.

If there is a problem, make a distinction between the person or the

"Organization doesn't really accomplish anything. Plans don't accomplish anything, either. Theories of management don't much matter. Endeavors succeed or fail because of the people involved."

Colin Powell

Retired Army general

process about which you have concerns; never make it personal. Avoid trigger words such as, "you always," "you never."

There are countless other tips, literature and courses on the subject you can explore.

Opening up the lines of communication and interaction with one another fosters loyalty, understanding and morale that leads to effective

teamwork and a successful organization.

In the words of General Colin Powell during a leadership seminar at the Sears Corporate Headquarters, "Organization doesn't really accomplish anything. Plans don't accomplish anything, either. Theories of management don't much matter. Endeavors succeed or fail because of the people involved."

'Deployed' chaplains serve evacuees, relief workers from airport chapel

By Lt. Col. Mike Pierson

Joint Task Force-Katrina Public Affairs

NEW ORLEANS — Chaplain (Capt.) Dan Thompson admits he has never preached from an airline podium before.

Then again, many aspects about the massive relief effort going on at Louis Armstrong -New Orleans International Airport are a first.

The Air Force chaplain from McGuire, was joined by Army chaplains to conduct the first chapel service held at the airport since Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans.

"It's kind of like a holy huddle at the end of a rough week," said Army Sgt. Carlos Ignacio, a military policeman from the California National Guard who has been assisting the chaplains during his deployment. The 22 military and civilian worshippers who attended the Sept. 11 service "became an instant family for those of us who left our families back home," he said.

Army Chaplain (Capt.) Erik Spicer has been ministering to some of the more than 25,000 people who have evacuated the city through the airport. Establishing Sunday worship services allowed believers to connect with each other and with their faith, said Chaplain Spicer.

"When you have seen so much hurt, it's amazing how people connect to and uplift each other," he said.

At the end of concourse C, where U.S. Airways passengers once boarded, Chaplain Thompson led prayers for the victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks that happened four years ago.

One of four Air Force chaplains stationed here, Chaplain Thompson also prayed for God to "knit back together the city that weathered the storm," and to help all those who lost family, friends and possessions in the hurricane.

Looking out floor-to-ceiling windows at military aircraft and relief vehicles moving about the airport, the worshippers sang, prayed and listened to Chaplain Spicer's sermon.

"We all come from different backgrounds, but we are all here to make a difference," Chaplain Spicer said. "We take the skills we developed for combat and are using them to help our fellow man."

After the 45-minute service, Chaplains Spicer and Thompson, along with Sergeant Ignacio and Army Pfc. David Hamlin, said the operation has allowed each of them, and people they have encountered, to grow stronger in their faith.

"Faith without deeds is dead," Private Hamlin said. He noted how many citizens of New Orleans he has seen come into the airport "with that 1,000-mile stare; then they find out they're getting help, and they leave here with a smile on their face."

Trading Spaces

The Learning Channel's Trading Spaces will be filming an upcoming episode at McGuire Nov. 1 to 5, and is seeking residents of McGuire Family Housing (Falcon Courts North and East) to participate in the show.

The show is looking for two families, each with someone who has recently returned from a deployment.

Trading Spaces provides two pairs of homeowners with a \$1,000 budget, a professional designer, a carpenter and 48 hours to redo a room of their choice. But there's a catch — they have to switch houses, and they have no say in how their own room will look. As soon as the homeowners switch house keys, the teams roll up their sleeves and get to work. After three days, each team returns to its own home to see what's become of the room.

Qualifications include:

1. The teams must be under a five-minute walk from each other.
2. Each home must have a team of two people — spouses and children are welcome. All participants must be at least 16 years old.
3. One member from each team must have returned from a deployment within the past six months. There is no limitation to where they were deployed (i.e. — OIF, OEF, hurricane support).
4. Rooms must be at least 12'x12'.
5. Team members must be able to take leave Nov. 1 to 5.

People interested in applying should send an e-mail to 1st Lt. Erick Saks at erick.saks@mcguire.af.mil.

305th Air Mobility Wing COC ceremony Tuesday

The 305th Air Mobility Wing change of command ceremony is Tuesday at 10 a.m. in Hangar 3211.

Brig. Gen. JJ Jackson, 305th Air Mobility Wing commander will relinquish command to Col. Rick Martin, vice commander of the 62nd Airlift Wing, McChord Air Force Base, Wash.

There will be a reception at the officers' club immediately following the ceremony.

Team McGuire is encouraged to come out to honor General Jackson for his outstanding leadership and service and to welcome Colonel Martin and his family to Team McGuire.

Due to limited parking, members who are in the formation must utilize bus transportation, which will be provided from the fitness center. Buses will depart the fitness center starting at 8:45 a.m. Tuesday. Additional parking will be available for guests and non-participating military personnel between Big Beige and Hangar 3211.

Uniform will be the uniform of the day (flight suits with flight caps or BDUs with ball caps and sleeves down).

Right on target



Photo by Kenn Mann

1st Lt. Stephen Kellar, 305th Security Forces Squadron OIC of training and resources, shows Chelsea Cooley, Miss USA 2005, how the different parts of an M-16 work, during her visit here Sept. 24. Miss USA visited various Team McGuire locations, to include the fitness center, Radio Approach Control, the air traffic control tower, a C-17 simulator, and KC-10 and C-17 static displays. To see more photos from her visit to McGuire, go to: <https://private.mcguire.af.mil/intrafire/vi/pages/missions>.



McGuire First
Sergeants' Council
Diamond Sharp Award
for
Promoting Military Discipline
Airman 1st Class LaRon Strong
305th Maintenance Squadron
&
Airman Kevin DeLong
305th MXS

Selective civilian programs open soon for nominations

The nomination periods for the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference and National Security Forum will open and close soon.

Any military member and Department of Defense civilian may nominate individuals for one or both of the programs, but nominations should be very selective.

"The ideal JCOC nominee is one who has strong regional or national influence, but has little or no first-hand knowledge about the U.S. military," said Russ Maheras, Air Force National Civic Outreach Office tour program manager.

The JCOC is a week-long, joint service orientation program sponsored by the Secretary of Defense that gives influential leaders a hands-on opportunity to see the overall view of how DoD operates. Currently, two JCOC trips are planned for 2006 with a state-side and overseas conference.

The National Security Forum is sponsored by the Secretary of the Air Force and will be held at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., May 15 to 19.

Make contact

For more information, call the McGuire Public Affairs office, call 754-2104.

The week-long program, hosted by the Air War College, allows students to interact with civilian leaders and gives them an opportunity to learn about the Air Force through lectures and open discussions.

"National Security Forum candidates should also be non-choir, but unlike nominees for the JCOC program, candidates who have strong local influence are regularly considered and selected by NSF judges," said Mr. Maheras.

Federal employees and DoD contractors are not eligible. Individuals wishing to nominate someone for either program should contact their public affairs office for more information.

—Courtesy of Headquarters
Air Mobility Command
Public Affairs

McGuire unit returns from Rita mission

By 1st Lt. Erick Saks
305th AMW Public Affairs

As Hurricane Rita began to lash Texas and Louisiana, one of the first Air Force units to deploy in support of the storm returned here Sept. 23 after evacuating nearly 2,000 people from the path of the hurricane.

Twenty members of McGuire's 621st Contingency Response Wing deployed to Beaumont, Texas, Sept. 22 to assist in the evacuation efforts at Southeast Texas Regional Airport.

The 621st CRW is one of two specialized wings in the Air Force responsible for training and rapidly deploying personnel to quickly open airfields in remote locations and extending Air Mobility Command's ability to deploy people and equipment around the globe. In Texas, the unit took advantage of its aerial port personnel and airlift planners to carry people to safety prior to the arrival of Hurricane Rita.

While hurricane evacuations isn't at the forefront of the CRW's mission, Capt. Justin Niederer, contingency response group element commander, said that it is a mission that they are ideally suited to handle.

"[Responding to wartime situations] is inherent in the job we train for, but at the same point we respond to whatever pops up that maybe no one else can respond to," said Captain Niederer. "Humanitarian efforts are actually a big part of our operations. We had teams that went out supporting Katrina, and many of them are still in New Orleans helping to clean up. We also had teams that went over for Tsunami relief in the Pacific, and we had teams that responded to the hurricanes in Florida last year. You name it, if they need cargo or people moved or the manpower to move it, they call us."

When Captain Niederer's team received the call to leave for Texas, they had already begun preparations for a possible deployment to that area.

"We had been building a team to prepare for hurricane response after the fact," said the captain. "We thought we'd be moving out on Sunday (Sept. 25), but yesterday afternoon (Sept. 22), they determined that they needed to move some people ahead of time. I was basically on the plane within about an hour and 15 minutes of being notified."

The members of the 621st CRW were greeted in Texas by Army and Air Force aeromedical teams, which had already begun evacuation efforts.

"When we got down there, there were already evacuations in place," said Captain Niederer. "There was an aeromedical evacuation team down there moving out ambulatory patients on litters, and there were a lot of local people helping out, including the local fire department, [emergency medical services], and police. When we came in, we took over the non-medical evacuation operation. We worked with the medevac unit to coordinate all airlift ensuring things ran smoothly on the ground."

In the short time Captain Niederer's team was on the ground, they helped move about 700 non-medical evacuees and 1,240 patients to safety.

"This team of 20 guys went down there and did things that I never would have imagined possible," said the captain. "We got down there to find hundreds of people sitting on litters with doctors over them just waiting for airlift to get them out of the area. It was an eye opener when I first walked into the terminal and saw that. When you realize what you're really there for – to get those people out of the path of the storm – it's really a rewarding mission."

The team left the Texas airport just as Hurricane Rita's outer bands began to strike the area.

"We ended up leaving Beaumont [Sept. 24] at about 1 p.m. as we were starting to get heavy winds and rain," said Captain Niederer. "The weather reports we got said about three inches of rain per hour was only about five minutes away from our location."

They returned to McGuire about 24 hour hours after they left – on very little sleep but proud of their accomplishments.

Captain Niederer said his background as a C-130 navigator gave him a unique perspective and appreciation for missions such as this.

"I'm glad that we could go out and help people who had a lot of bad things coming their way," said the captain. "This has been an outstanding experience. As an AMC airlifter, you do a lot of resupply missions around the world in other countries in their times of crisis. When you can do it for your own people it is incredibly rewarding."

Crime Stoppers

McGuire security forces and medical emergency response teams responded to the following calls Sept. 17 to 23.

Members with any information about the crimes listed below should call the security forces investigation section at 754-4057.

Sept. 17

● An individual reported to the Security Forces Control Center that an unknown person(s) damaged his vehicle in the parking lot next to Dormitory 2613. The individual said he parked his vehicle undamaged Sept. 17 at about 12:45 a.m. Then at about 8:45 a.m., he noticed damage to the rear bumper.

● An individual entered the SFCC with a puppy and reported he found the animal next to his home on Bolling Boulevard. The dog was taken to the Fort Dix vet clinic.

● Security forces and medical personnel responded to an individual complaining of breathing in mist from hydraulic fluid. The individual was taken to a local hospital.

Sept. 18

● A Philadelphia police officer called the SFCC and reported that two active-duty members had been arrested Sept. 18 at 2:15 a.m. on Second and Market Street in Philadelphia. One member was arrested for aggravated assault on a police officer, reckless endangerment and disorderly conduct. The other member was arrested for simple assault, harassment, reckless endangerment on a person and disorderly conduct.

● An individual reported to the SFCC that there was a stray black Labrador on West George Street. The dog was taken to the Fort Dix vet clinic.

● A Fort Dix DoD police officer reported to the SFCC that an active-duty member was stopped by their department Sept. 17 for speeding. When the individual couldn't produce proof of insurance or registration, he was released and instructed to report to the Fort Dix DoD Police Department within 24 hours with the credentials. When he failed to do so, a police unit was dispatched to the individual's home. After speaking with the individual, his car was impounded because he could not provide the needed credentials.

● Security forces and medical personnel responded to the commissary, where an individual was having a

mild epileptic spasm and was acting disoriented in the entrance of the commissary. She resolved the matter by taking her medication and refused medical attention.

Sept. 19

● An individual reported a minor vehicle collision between a blue 44-passenger bus and a car. The investigation revealed the bus was traveling south in the parking lot next to Building 2402, and the car was stationary in a designated parking space. The bus attempted to back out without a spotter and struck the car's front end. There was no visible damage to the bus. The car received minor damage to the front fender and a cracked passenger side headlight. No injuries were reported. A citation was issued for improper backing.

● Security forces and medical personnel responded to the dining facility where an individual was complaining of severe neck pain. The individual declined medical attention.

Sept. 20

● Security forces responded to the parking lot of Building 3004 where an individual fell and hurt her left ankle. The individual was taken to a local hospital.

Sept. 21

● An individual reported that an unknown person(s) damaged her vehicle. She said she parked on West Scott Street before leaving the local area in early August. Upon her return, she found her vehicle had been severely scratched along both sides and trunk.

● An individual reported that unknown person(s) had damaged two garden hoses, attached to Building 2620. He noticed his garden hoses in good condition on Sept. 20 at approximately 7 p.m. On Sept. 21 at 1 p.m., he noticed that both his garden hoses were damaged and unserviceable. The estimated value of the damage is \$30.

● Security forces and medical personnel responded to Building 2704 where an individual was recovering from a previous medical condition. The individual was taken to a local hospital.

● Security forces and fire department members responded to Building 3001 where two individuals were stuck in an extended bucket truck. Members from the 305th Civil Engineer Squadron used a ladder to get the

two individuals out of the truck.

● Security forces and medical personnel responded to housing, where a two-year-old child had tripped over the family dog and hit her head on a headboard. The child was taken to a local hospital.

● Security forces and medical personnel responded to an individual who had fainted from physical training. The individual was transported to a local hospital.

● Security forces and medical personnel responded to an individual suffering from nausea and dizziness. The individual was taken to a local hospital.

● Security forces and medical personnel responded to the mobility exercise grounds next to Building 3209 where an individual was feeling faint. The individual refused medical attention.

● Security forces and medical personnel responded to two individuals who were dehydrated. One member was taken to a local hospital.

● Security forces and base visual information personnel responded to the health clinic in response to a domestic violence case. Security forces spoke with the victim, who accomplished a written statement regarding the incident. VI took photos of the victim's injuries.

● A patrolman from Lumberton Township police department reported to the SFCC that an active-duty member was arrested by their department for aggravated assault and terror-like threats.

Sept. 22

● An individual reported to the SFCC that while walking toward Scott Street, another individual asked her to keep her dog away from him. She told the individual he could walk around if he didn't want to be close to the dog. The individual then threatened to kill her dog if she came toward him. The dog was on a leash and was wearing a muzzle.

● Security forces and medical personnel responded to the base theater where an employee had slipped on the sidewalk and hurt her knee. The person was taken to a local hospital.

● Security forces and medical personnel responded to a medical emergency at the MOBEX grounds where an individual was dehydrated and suffering from heat exhaustion. The person was taken to a local hospital.



Sept. 23

● The AAFES gas station reported to the SFCC that a female put gas in her car and left without paying. All post and patrols were notified to be on the look out for the vehicle fitting its description. Another employee called from the gas station and reported he saw the vehicle pull into the shoppette parking lot. Security forces responded and spoke with the individual, who said she did pay for her gas. The investigation revealed she did pay and the non-payment came from a previous transaction.

● Security forces and medical personnel responded to the dining facility where an individual had twisted her finger in the dish washer. She refused medical attention.

● Security forces spoke with an individual in regard to a vehicle he owned that was parked in the resale lot and had license plates registered to a different vehicle belonging to him. A check for a stolen vehicle and person-inquiry on the individual and the vehicle revealed no active warrants for him and that the vehicle in question was not stolen. The individual provided proper paperwork for the vehicle and was advised of the proper procedures of placing vehicles on the resale lot. The individual said he would remove the vehicle from the lot.

● An individual reported to the SFCC that there was a verbal altercation in the parking lot of Building 3369. Security forces responded and spoke with the spouse of an active-duty member who said they were involved in a verbal altercation. Through further investigation, it was discovered a mutual assault had occurred during the altercation. The active-duty member was taken to the SFCC, and the spouse was instructed to report there for further processing. The spouse was not taken, because she had two young children in the vehicle. Both individuals were charged with assault.

● Security forces and medical personnel responded to Building 2414 where an individual said she inhaled a chemical cleaning agent. The individual was taken to a local hospital.

Airman Activities Committee

All-Airmen organization reaches out to community, McGuire

Story and photos by
Airman 1st Class Rachel Martinez
 Public Affairs Specialist

There are many organizations on base in which Airmen can participate, but there is only one started by Airmen — the Airman Activities Committee.

The AAC started in 1999 for Airmen E-1 to E-2; its mission is to enhance morale, educate and foster camaraderie and unity. The committee also provides a leadership and mentorship program, as well as assists in the development of professional leadership and management abilities.

"The AAC is a group of Airmen whose job it is to look out for the interest of other Airmen," said Airman 1st Class Aaron Boss, AAC president. "We create, develop and promote programs to make life better for Airmen. We do what we can to keep people involved and to make things interesting."

The main reason it was started was so Airmen could have a voice on base, according to Senior Airman Lacie Collins, prior AAC president.

"(The AAC) gives (Airmen) an avenue to bring up issues they may be having at work or even in their personal lives," said Airman Collins. "It is a way for them to speak their minds without repercussion."

In addition to providing an open forum for Airmen, the AAC is heavily involved in volunteer work. Some ongoing volunteer work includes providing escorts for base functions, giving tours of the Airmen's Firehouse and manning Airmen Against Drunk Driving. The committee also volunteers and helps fundraise for Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Burlington County.

"Airmen should get involved for a bunch of reasons," Airman Boss said. "If you do it right, you can accom-

plish a lot and do a lot of good. For someone who wants to make a difference, this is the place to be."

AAC meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at 9 a.m. at the Airmen's Firehouse. A five-man council and representatives from each squadron attend each meeting.

"While there are designated squadron reps, anyone is welcome and all are encouraged to attend," said Airman Boss. "The council members want to hear from you — about what you want to see happen."

A NCO mentor also attends each meeting. The mentor's purpose is to

advise, assist and oversee the Airmen if needed.

"Sometimes the younger Airmen don't know what resources are available to them so they have an experienced NCO who can suggest things or take items forward," said Tech. Sgt. Stacey Grabski, recently named AAC mentor. "I've been to one meeting so far,

and it was very enlightening. They are really getting involved in a lot of activities, and they really have their act together."

Whether or not they are involved in other organizations or already volunteer on their own, Airmen are encouraged to join the AAC — the only organization on base for Airmen, by Airmen.

AAC Council

President

Airman 1st Class Aaron Boss

Vice president

Senior Airman David Weaver

Secretary

Airman 1st Class Alyson Baird

Treasurer

Airman 1st Class Renee Billy

Historian

Airman Edward Davis



Senior Airman Damon Lutenecker, AAC member, and Senior Airman David Weaver, AAC vice president, box up donations at the Airmen's Firehouse Tuesday. The AAC worked with the Airmen's Firehouse to collect donations for Airmen at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., who were affected by Hurricane Katrina. Volunteers from AAC will deliver the donations to a Keesler AAC member who will distribute the items to those in need.

Upcoming AAC events

● Cycle for Kids' Sake

Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Burlington County is holding its annual bike ride fundraiser Saturday at the Masonic Home of Burlington. The AAC is looking for Airmen to run, ride or just help out. Registration for runners and riders is \$15. Interested Airmen can contact an AAC council member for details.

● Halloween party

The AAC is hosting a costume party Oct. 30 from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Airmen's Firehouse. There will be games, contests and light refreshments. This event is open to Airmen of all ages and ranks and their families, and is alcohol-free. Admission is \$3 per person over age 12.



Left to right, AAC council members Airman 1st Class Alyson Baird, secretary; Airman 1st Class Aaron Boss, president; and Airman Edward Davis, historian; discuss plans for a future event during an AAC meeting.

Ravens recall opening days in Hurricane Katrina disaster zone

By Tech. Sgt. Scott Sturkol
421st Combat Training Squadron

Five Air Force security forces Phoenix Ravens from the 421st Combat Training Squadron, Air Mobility Warfare Center, were among the first to be called out in the military support effort for Hurricane Katrina.

They were among many other Ravens from the Air Force who participated in the effort. However, the difference is these Ravens train all other security forces members who become Ravens in the Air Force.

They said this experience is one that will stay with them. As one said, "The reality was heart-breaking."

Tech Sgt. Kelly Tabor and Staff Sgts. Kerry Patton, Rudolph Stuart, Jason Taylor and Aubrey Vasquez were on their way to the Louis Armstrong-New Orleans International Airport within two and a half hours of notification the evening of Sept. 2. When they got to Louisiana, Sergeant Tabor served as an assistant stage manager. Sergeants Patton and

Stuart served as Raven team leaders, and Sergeants Taylor and Vasquez were Raven team members.

Sergeant Tabor's job required him to coordinate, track and support Phoenix Raven operations like providing in-flight aircraft security for Air Mobility Command aircraft evacuation operations.

Sergeant Tabor recalls some of the things he saw upon his arrival for duty in New Orleans.

"The best way to sum it up is there were a lot of people in serious need of help," Sergeant Tabor said. "We just couldn't do enough for everyone. Ravens witnessed firsthand accounts of the difficulties caused by the hurricane — to include displaced children without parents, injuries, violence, rape and other forms of confrontation. The events experienced by victims of Katrina had taken them to their physical and mental limits."

Going on this effort was a "front line" duty many of them didn't expect, but they persisted through the hardships they saw on many of the evacuees' faces.

"There were many children, disabled people and elderly people aboard the aircraft we were flying," Sergeant Patton said. "This was an opportunity for all Ravens to understand humanitarian assistance to its greatest effects. As individuals saw our actions and assistance towards these people, many understood we were there to help.

"However, it's virtually impossible to prepare any military member to mentally handle these situations, especially after one listens to the numerous stories from the displaced people," he added. "Ravens physically carried some of the people off the aircraft straight to Department of Health and Human Services to ensure they were taken care of appropriately."

Sergeant Tabor said it was difficult and touching to see the strength these people exerted to survive.

"For the victims, their experience can most accurately be described as a matter of survival," he said. "Victims were forced to commit acts they normally wouldn't in order to preserve their lives. I also watched injured and exhausted people grab their fellow American's arm, sling it over their shoulder and carry them to departing aircraft. Victims' emotions ranged from worried and angry to tears of joy. They were in need of rest from their battle with Katrina."

Sergeant Stuart remembers leaving McGuire's flightline to New Orleans to their evacuation effort.

"We departed McGuire roughly around midnight Sept. 2 and

got to New Orleans between 2:30 and 4 a.m.," Sergeant Stuart said. "We were uploading our first aircraft with roughly 200 people. A little after 6 a.m., we took off to Austin, Texas, to drop them off. The upload was about an hour and half process."

Throughout several intense days they helped evacuate thousands of people to safe areas where they could receive needed care.

"Our joint effort evacuated more than 7,000 victims," Sergeant Tabor said. "That's 7,000 victories."

The five Ravens had a way to communicate with each other even if each of them could be in different states at the same time. They used their personal cell phones to text message each other to keep communication flowing.

"Communication is the reason we operated so quickly and decisively," Sergeant Tabor said.

"When they were unavailable, we had to use some 'old school' methods to sustain our operations. A prepared Airman should never forget the basics and be ready to adapt quickly to execute the mission."

The experience is also something these instructors will bring back to teach other Ravens on humanitarian operations in future classes at the AMWC.

"We associate a great part of our operations in foreign land settings because it is the most prominent component of the Raven mission," Sergeant Tabor said. "We have to remember we may have to respond to domestic emergencies as well. Our curriculum will certainly be affected, and the knowledge will be passed on."

Sergeant Stuart added, "We don't get to fly a lot as instructors. So when you do get out in the system, it aids to what you bring to the table for the students. To be able to see other Ravens you graduated put their training to real world use is priceless. It's like a father letting go of the handle bars and bike seat to watch their child peddle on their own. You can't put a price on what we did and learned from this experience. Even as instructors, we are still learning."

If called again, these instructors say they'll go on a moment's notice.

"I've been a Raven for more than five years and have flown some humanitarian missions. But when it's your own country, it touches a different spot in your heart and soul," Sergeant Stuart said. "On an operation like this, it feels like you can never do enough. I would definitely do it again."

Sergeant Tabor said this experience reinforced what he has steadily learned as a United States citizen and through his military career.

"Disaster does not discriminate and is closer than most of us realize," he said. "We are always ready to confront it in order to save lives. We must always be ready when our nation calls."



Courtesy photo

Staff Sgt. Jason Taylor, an Air Force Security Forces Raven from the Air Mobility Warfare Center's 421st Combat Training Squadron, holds a child evacuee from New Orleans following an evacuation mission there Sept. 3. Sergeant Taylor and four other security forces instructors from the 421st CTS participated in evacuation operations following Hurricane Katrina.

In the Spotlight

Name: Staff Sgt. Neil Roberti

Age: 25

Hometown: Bakersfield, Calif.

Family: Wife and a three-month-old son

Duty title/unit: 421st Combat Training Squadron instructor/exercise controller

Time in service: Four years, 10 months in the Air Force, two years at McGuire

What I like most about being stationed at McGuire:

The close proximity to major cities and historical landmarks

The military member who influenced my career the most is Master Sgt. Richard Roush.

My proudest military moment is when I put the name tags on my first set of BDUs in basic training.

Five years from now I'll hopefully be doing a job that I love even more than the one I have now.

Dream job: Working as an agent in the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms

I like to pig out on French fries

Favorite movie: "Wag the Dog"

Hobbies: Being a fire department and emergency medical service volunteer

Motto: "If opportunity doesn't knock, then build a door."

Supervisor's comments: "As his supervisor who is someone from a different Air Force career field, working with Sergeant Roberti has been great. He is one of the best troops I have ever had. His work ethic proved true on a recent deployment to support relief efforts for Hurricane Katrina."



Staff Sgt. Neil Roberti

— **Master Sgt. Dean Steele**
421st Combat Training Squadron

Combat camera exercise controller and instructor

Halvorsen Dining Hall Menu

Today Lunch

Beef enchiladas
Taco lasagna
Chicken fajitas

Dinner

Stuffed peppers
Spaghetti with meat sauce
Italian sausage

Saturday Lunch

Crispy baked chicken*
Cajun meat loaf
Steak, ribeye

Dinner

Fish almonidine*
Stir fry chicken with broccoli
Porkchops

Sunday Lunch

Tuna and noodles
Sauerbraten
Chicken breast parmesan

Dinner

Ginger BBQ chicken*
Fried shrimp
Spinach lasagna*

Monday Lunch

Roast turkey*
Canned ham
Fish and fries

Dinner

Swiss steak with tomato sauce
Baked chicken*
Sweet Italian sausage

Tuesday Lunch

Paprika beef*
BBQ beef cubes
Chicken fajitas

Dinner

Onion/lemon fish*
Pork schnitzel steak
Yakisoba

Wednesday Lunch

Pita pizzas*
Country steak
Fried chicken

Dinner

Caribbean jerk chicken*
Beef porcupines
Chicken enchiladas

Thursday Lunch

Mr. Z baked chicken*
Pepper steak
Pasta primavera

Dinner

Orange-spiced pork chops*
Liver with onions
Tempura fried fish

Menu items are subject to change due to availability. For more information, call 754-2527.

* Denotes a Healthy Heart Menu item

Visit us on the web for the full 28 day menu

www.305services.com



Can Do Crew

The Can Do Crew would like to recognize **Master Sgt. Angela Young**, 305th Security Forces Squadron. As the security forces training and resources superintendent, Sergeant Young oversees an extremely busy mobility section, supply shop and base-wide training for small arms, SFS and READY Augmentees. However, today she is being recognized for her unfailing attitude, her positive spin on things gone awry and the never ending smile on her face.

Additionally, Sergeant Young embodies the "Can Do" spirit and is always striving to improve McGuire, one step at a time. Be aware that the Can Do Crew is everywhere, looking for outstanding service. They covertly seek members of Team McGuire who make a difference, identifying and recognizing only the best. Remember, the strongest asset of Team McGuire is its people; you are what makes McGuire a better place to live, work and play.

What's My Line?

The rules

1. Write a humorous or imaginative caption or cutline.
2. All entries must be submitted by noon Monday. Forward e-mail to airtides@mcguire.af.mil or drop off entries at the 305th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs office.
3. Entries are limited to two captions or cutlines per person.
4. The person with the funniest or most imaginative caption or cutline gets a 305th Services Squadron grab bag, which includes a variety of freebies.
5. Prizes are provided by the 305th Services Squadron. Winners can pick up their prize at the 305th Services Marketing office, Building 2905, at Pudgy Circle.



Winner: "Just be gentle with this baby, she's not as harmless as she looks."

— **Janice Hinchcliffe**
305th Operations Support Squadron



Write a caption or cutline for this photo. The writer whose caption or cutline is the funniest or most imaginative will be printed in the following week's issue.

At the Movies

Today
"The Skeleton Key"
 Rated PG-13.

Saturday
"Undiscovered"
 Rated PG-13

Oct. 7
"The 40-Year-Old Virgin"
 Rated R

Oct. 8
"March of the Penguins"
 Rated G

Show time is 7:30 p.m. for all movies unless otherwise noted. Ticket prices are: adults \$3.50, children \$1.75.

Career and Education

Right decision briefing

First- and second-term Airmen with less than 15 months until their separation date should contact Career Assistance Advisor Senior Master Sgt. Gerald Alexander. Briefing dates are Monday, Nov. 7 and Dec. 15. To schedule an appointment, call 754-4636 or send an e-mail to career.advisor@mcguire.af.mil.

Burlington County College

BCC's hours of operation are Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Friday 8:30 a.m. to noon. For more information, visit Building 1911, Room 209, or call 754-2577. The McGuire BCC office has temporarily discontinued placement testing. Placement tests may be taken at the Pemberton-Browns Mills campus by walk-in or appointment. To make an appointment, call 894-9311.

Embry-Riddle

Office hours are Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call 754-5353.

Thomas Edison

Thomas Edison offers more than 130 on-line courses that support Community College of the Air Force completion. To register, visit Building 1911, Room 211, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, call 723-1592 or 754-5348.



Photo by Carlos Cintron

A taste of culture — Tech. Sgt. Randy Rodriguez, 514th Recruiting Squadron, serves up some Spanish food to Staff Sgt. Beverly Freeman, 305th Maintenance Squadron, and Senior Airman Benito Rodriguez, 305th MXS, at the Hispanic Heritage food-tasting event at Wacky World Sept. 23. Hispanic Heritage Month, Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, is the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries — Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Mexico and Chile also share in the celebration.

Tuition assistance

Tuition assistance is available online via the Air Force Virtual Education Center Web site at <https://www.my.af.mil/afveprod> or via a link on the Air Force Portal.

Members are required to have a degree plan on file at the education office. If they do not, they will not be authorized tuition assistance. On-line TA is mandatory as of Saturday. For a complete list of necessary steps to apply, visit: <https://private.mcguire.af.mil/intrainfo/McGuireAll/2005>.

Ceremonies

Retirements

● **Major Debra Shelwood**, 305th Medical Group, will retire during a ceremony today at 3 p.m. in the joint medical training facility auditorium, Building 3466. A reception will follow. For more information, call Capt. Pedro Burton-Taylor at 754-9259.

● **Tech. Sgt. Glenn Chappell**, 819th Global Support Squadron, will retire during a ceremony Oct. 13 at 10 a.m. in the enlisted club. A reception will follow. R.S.V.P. to Tech. Sgt. Edward Grant at 754-2659.

● **Chaplain (Maj.) David Maack**, 305th Air Mobility Wing, will retire during a ceremony Oct. 14 in Chapel I. A reception will follow. If interested in making a presentation, call the Chaplain (Capt.) Chad Bellamy at 754-5905.

Arts and Crafts

The Fort Dix Arts and Crafts Center, Building 6039, is open Tuesday through Thursday from noon to 5 p.m. and 6 to 8:45 p.m., Friday 11 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., and Saturday 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. For a complete list of classes or more information, call 562-5691.

● Quilts for kids

The first Saturday of each month 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

● Adult craft classes

Tuesday — chip and dip set
 Oct. 18 — candy corn plate
 6 to 8:30 p.m. Registration is \$5 plus materials.

● Beginners' crocheting class

Tuesday and Oct. 11 from 6 to 9 p.m.

● **Introduction to sewing** four-week class is Thursday and Oct. 13 from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

● **Children craft classes** for chil-

dren, ages 6 to 12, from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Saturday — personal popcorn bowl, Oct. 15 — ceramic pumpkin mug; Registration is \$5 plus materials.

● **Crafty birthday parties** include up to two hours of party-room use, one craft project with instruction and all materials, plus a digitally mastered photo T-shirt for the birthday child. A choice of crafts ranges from ceramic painting, create-a-critter stuffed animals, jewelry and other popular crafts.

● **Rubber stamping** 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Oct. 11 — holiday cards

● **Framing class** requires pre-registration and costs \$10 plus materials purchased the day of class. Students should bring a piece to frame that is no larger than 8 x 10 inches. Saturday 9 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday 6 to 8:30 p.m.

● **Kids' pottery class** for ages 6 to 9, meets Oct. 15 through Nov. 5 each Saturday 10:30 a.m. to noon. Registration is \$20 plus materials.

● **Tween pottery class**, ages 10 to 13, meets Oct. 15 through Nov. 5 each Saturday 1 to 2:30 p.m. Registration is \$20 plus materials.

● **Ceramics studio**

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday noon to 5 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m., Friday

11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

● Photography contest

The Army photography contest is going on now at the center. The contest is an annual juried competition of photographic prints and short films, held in two separate divisions for active-duty participants and other eligible entrants. The center will assist patrons in preparing submissions. All entries are due Oct. 12. For contest rules, call Jim Jansma at 562-5771.

● Beginners' Norwegian rosemaling (folk art) painting class

October 18, 19 and 20 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Miscellaneous

Enlisted spouses

The next McGuire Enlisted Spouses' Club meeting is scheduled for Oct. 26 at 7 p.m. in the enlisted club. This meeting will focus on the importance of Breast Cancer awareness. Upcoming events include an outing to Woodbury Commons Oct. 15. For more information, call Nicole Seiler at 723-2445.

McGuire 56

McGuire 56 is an organization for Airmen, with ranks E-5 and E-6, who actively participate in activities on base. For information, call Staff Sgt. Josh Copeland at 754-3239.

Cub Scouts

Those interested in Cub Scouts can contact Cub Scout Pack 199 by calling Todd Charlesworth at 723-5740.

Airmen's attic

Located at 3446 Broidy Ave., the attic is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Children's clothing sizes infant to 6x, seasonal items, furniture, appliances and more are available to service members, E-4 and below, and their spouses. For more information, call 754-8703.

Native American Heritage Month

The Native American Heritage Committee needs help in planning activities for Native American Heritage Month in November. All personnel are welcome to volunteer. Call Georgia Dupuis at 754-2214 or Staff Sgt. Maria Frazier at 754-3145 for more information.

Housing refuse collection

The refuse collection contract for McGuire will be replaced with a new contract Saturday. The new contract

will significantly reduce truck traffic throughout military family housing as well as a reduction in residual trash being blown around military family housing.

To incorporate these changes, the new contract differs significantly from the existing in the following ways:

- MFH refuse collection will be reduced from two times a week to one time a week.

- MFH refuse will be collected Monday, unless Monday is a holiday. Then refuse will be collected on Tuesday.

- MFH recyclables and green wastes will be collected once a week on Thursday, unless Thursday is a holiday. Then recyclables and wastes will be collected on Friday.

- All single family homes in MFH must place refuse containers at the curb on the assigned day for collection.

Residents are encouraged to plan accordingly to ensure a smooth transition. Additional refuse containers are available upon request. Submit requests and any comments or concerns to Franklin Gaskill at 754-5481.

Reunions

- The Air Commando Association/Special Operations Veterans from World War II are scheduled to hold their annual reunion Oct. 7 to 9 at Fort Walton Beach, Fla. For more information call (850)581-0099, fax (850)581-8988, e-mail aircommando@aol.com or visit <http://home.earthlink.net/~aircommando1/>

- The sixteenth annual reunion for people stationed at Sampson Air Force Base, N.Y., is scheduled for Oct. 10 to 14 at Lake Barkley State Resort Park in Codiz, Ky. For more information, call Jamie Jameson at (585) 377-1153 or Walt Steesy at (607) 532-4204, or e-mail SamAFBvet@aol.com.

Kids and Teens

Youth center activities

For more information about activities hosted by the McGuire Youth Center, call 754-KIDS.

● Home-schoolers' sports class

The 305th Youth Center Sports office will be offering a sports class for children who are home schooled, beginning today.

● Midnight basketball

10 p.m. to midnight today — free

● Karate classes

Saturday 9 to 10:20 a.m., beginners, ages 6 to 9; 10:20 to 11:40 a.m., intermediate, ages 10 to 14; 11:40

a.m. to 1 p.m. and Wednesday from 7:30 to 8:45 p.m., advanced students and adults

Community

Family support center activities

For more information about any of the FSC events and activities below, call 754-3154 or visit <http://public.mcguire.amc.af.mil/fsc>.

● Divorce care

This group meets the first and third Thursday of every month from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the FSC. It enables participants to have a better understanding of what they are going through, provides them with support from others in similar situations and assists in the process of readjustment in their life.

● Bundles for babies

Bundles for Babies is Oct. 11 from 9 to 11 a.m. at the FSC. This class offers a wealth of information, a "Baby's First Year" book and a \$75-value gift package. Class size is limited and registration is required.

● Sponsorship training

All first-time sponsors and those who have not sponsored a newcomer in the past year are invited to attend sponsorship training Oct. 11 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the FSC.

Family advocacy

For more information about or to register for family advocacy programs, including those listed below, call 754-9680.

● Baby expo

A baby expo is scheduled for today from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Chapel I. Parents can get information on local maternity units, pregnancy fitness, cord blood banking, childcare and many other base and community agencies.

Representatives will be available to answer questions and provide participants with free literature.

● Pregnancy 101

Topics help prepare parents for what to expect throughout pregnancy. Guest speakers include experts from pediatrics, physical therapy, dental, TRICARE, public health, nutrition and family advocacy. The class is held the second Monday of each month from 9 to 11:30 a.m.

● Fathers-to-be

Class is taught by dads, for dads, and is held the third Thursday of each month from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

● Marriage with babies

Class topics help expectant parents to learn how a new baby

impacts their marital relationship. Class is offered quarterly the first Friday of each month at Child Development Center I from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

● Playgroup

This informal setting allows children to play while parents socialize from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at CDC I. Monday, ages 18 months to 3 years; Wednesday, birth to 18 months.

Spiritual

For more information about spiritual services, call 754-HOPE.

Worship services

● Catholic Mass

Monday through Thursday at 11:35 a.m., Saturday at 5 p.m., Sunday at 9 a.m. at Chapel I.

● Islamic Zuhr prayer

Monday through Friday at noon at the Fort Dix Chapel.

● Jewish Sabbath worship

The first and third Friday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Fort Dix Chapel.

● Protestant

Traditional

Sunday, 8 a.m. at Chapel II
Gospel

Sunday, 11 a.m. at Chapel I
Evangelical

Sunday, 11 a.m. at Chapel II

● Wiccan study group

The first Tuesday each month at 6:30 p.m. at Chapel II.

Men's reformation group

A group is scheduled for Friday at 11:45 a.m. at the officers' club.

OCF

The Officers' Christian Fellowship meets for Bible study the first and third Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at Chapel II.

CWOC

The Catholic Women of the Chapel meets the third Sunday of every month at 7 p.m. at Chapel I annex. Childcare is provided. For reservations, call Duska at 723-2766.

Club Beyond

This club, for junior high and high school teens, meets to play games, do group activities and perform skits. High school participants meet every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. and junior high students meet every Tuesday at 6 p.m. For details or to register, call Scott Schesser at 754-5904.



Pigskin Picks

"Obviously, after last week, the Seahawks are going to win the championship."

— Staff Sgt.
Rod Dove
and his military
working dog, Kelly
305th Security Forces
Squadron



Senior Airman
Ashley DiFalco
Pigskin Guru

Each week during football season, the **Airtides** publishes a list of the National Football League games for the upcoming week. Team McGuire members can submit their predictions, including the winner and the total points for the Monday night game.

The person who guesses the most correct outcomes wins a 305th Services Squadron prize.

The person or people with the worst record receives the "You Don't

Know Jack" award, which encompasses no physical prize.

This week's "Jack" prize goes to **Douglas Schmidt**, McGuire NCO Academy, who missed eight guesses. Just like most others, he picked the Steelers to win — which was his first mistake. Better luck next week.

All entries must be submitted before the opening kickoff to the first game Sunday. The total points of the Monday game determine the winner if there's a tie for the week.

Send an e-mail to airtides@mcguire.af.mil, with the words "pigskin picks" in the subject line.

Week four games:

Sunday

Lions vs. Buccaneers
Eagles vs. Chiefs
Colts vs. Titans
Chargers vs. Patriots
Seahawks vs. Redskins
Bills vs. Saints
Broncos vs. Jaguars

Rams vs. Giants
Texans vs. Bengals
Jets vs. Ravens
Cowboys vs. Raiders
Vikings vs. Falcons
49ers vs. Cardinals

Monday

Packers vs. Panthers



Don't forget to include predicted total points for the **Packers/Panthers game**, your telephone number, and your name and rank.

Officer stands tall after winning AF marathon

The saying goes "good things come in small packages," but for a captain here it may be more appropriate to say "*fast* things come in small packages."

Standing barely more than 5 feet tall, Capt. Kori Delwiche, 305th Operations Support Squadron airfield operations flight commander, won the overall women's division in the Air Force Marathon at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Sept. 17.

Although she led most of the 26.2 miles, Captain Delwiche came out of seemingly nowhere to take the title in 3 hours, 2 minutes and 22.75 seconds — 29th overall, upsetting two-time defending champion Capt. Jill Metzger, Moody AFB, Ga., who finished in 3:06.

What's more, this is just Captain Delwiche's second marathon ever. Her first marathon was back in 1999, when she

finished in about 3:50.

She attributes her success to a well established training plan and a great running partner, Maj. Andy Beale of the 305th OSS, who finished 39 out of 961 runners in the half-marathon.

"I just felt strong throughout," she said. "I was going to slow down as soon as I began to feel a little bit worn out, but it never really came. It's just nice to have run as well as I did. I'm thankful for that."

Her finish, and the resulting attention, was something of a shock and a bit overwhelming to Captain Delwiche, who said she has never won anything of that magnitude before.

During the marathon, she said she found herself running with others around mile 10 when she got the hint she was among the leaders. But she didn't allow the thought to overwhelm her.

"A marathon's a tricky run," she said. "You can be strong through the first half, and then all of a sudden something tightens up, and you're done. Talking to people made it go quicker."

Captain Delwiche said as grateful as she was to win, she was just as thankful for being there to represent McGuire.

She also said she spent much of the post race trying to absorb her win. As far as her success leading to more marathons, it's still up in the air.

"It will depend on how my legs feel," she said. Captain Delwiche said she would like to go back to test herself again, although she admitted she wasn't real comfortable with the title "defending champion."

She said the patriotic feel may be what ultimately takes her back in 2006.

"It's neat just to see all the support for the military, the cheering throughout, the red, white and blue and singing the national anthem this morning before we began," she said. "Especially in this time with the latest tragedy down south, and so many people deployed overseas, it's was nice to be able to participate in all that."

— Information compiled by
Senior Airman Ashley DiFalco and
Brett Turner



Photo by Spencer Lane

Capt. Kori Delwiche, 305th Operations Support Squadron airfield operations flight commander, has her timing chip removed by Maj. Andy Beale, her training partner and fellow 305th OSS officer, following her victory in the overall women's division in the ninth annual U.S. Air Force Marathon Sept. 17. Delwiche finished in 3:02:22.75, defeating two-time defending champion Capt. Jill Metzger.